

Woods Hole Science Aquarium

High School Intern Program

Summer 2004



The Woods Hole Science Aquarium is offering internships for students who have completed grades 10, 11 or 12. The interns will help care for animals, work on special projects, attend seminars and go on field trips.

The internships are designed for students with a variety of interests. Several slots will go to students interested in aquariums, marine animals and marine science. Other slots are available for students interested in web site design, writing about marine animals and marine environments, and teaching the public about conservation.

When:

The 2004 program will provide two types of internships (both are volunteer positions):

Six-week interns will work half days, a minimum of three days a week, July 6 to August 13.

Four-week interns will work full days, Monday through Friday, July 19 to August 13.

Working hours are flexible. We make every effort to accommodate other activities – the six-week program is intended to accommodate students who have summer jobs.

By Whom:

The intern program is run by the staff of the Woods Hole Science Aquarium, and is a project of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, the Marine Biological Laboratory, and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Who Should Apply:

We welcome applications from students of all backgrounds. Students from groups under-represented in marine sciences are especially encouraged to apply – this includes African American, Cape Verdean, Hispanic, and Native American students.

What Is Offered:

The internships are an opportunity to work with a professional staff and to get an overview of the types of science done in Woods Hole. Depending on their interests, interns may learn about marine animals, aquarium operations, web design, writing, and environmental stewardship.

The aquarium typically has more than 100 species of marine animals. The current collection includes two harbor seals and two Kemp's ridley sea turtles (an endangered species). The animals are held in several dozen tanks that provide cold water, temperate water, and warm water habitats. The aquarium staff includes two veterinarians, an aquarist, a curator, and a program manager with teaching experience. Visitors to the aquarium on a typical summer day number in the thousands and come from more than 30 states and a dozen foreign countries.

All interns will spend some time working with animals and serving as guides to the aquarium; go on collecting trips and visit other science institutions in Woods Hole; and attend weekly public seminars about Woods Hole science.

Projects:

Some interns will spend most of their time working with the staff aquarist on caring for animals. Other interns will work with professional staff on projects that may include design and development of the aquarium web site; writing about the marine animals and marine resource issues; and working on exhibits to teach visitors about conservation. After the interns are selected in early April, they will work via e-mail with the program manager to shape the projects they will work on over the summer. Interns will be invited for a half day workshop on a Saturday in May to discuss their summer projects.

What Is Not Offered:

The internships do not include stipends, housing, or transportation. We expect most applicants will be local students or students who have family on the Cape, but students from off-Cape are welcome if they can arrange their own housing and transportation. There is a public trolley that runs from Falmouth to Woods Hole.

Selection Criteria:

The program is designed for bright, mature, motivated students who want an interesting summer experience. Applicants do not have to be anticipating careers in marine science, but they should be interested in marine animals, the marine environment, aquarium operations, resource management, or writing and/or web-based communications.

We are looking for interns who are:

- * interested in learning
- * able to manage their time
- * comfortable working with and learning from adults
- * interested in working with and learning from other interns

How To Apply:

Write a letter explaining your interest in the program. Explain what area you are interested in (animal care, web site work, writing, conservation education) and why you would like to spend part of your summer working with us. The application letter need not be long – just tell us about yourself and your interests. Include relevant courses you have taken and other relevant experiences that have prepared you to work with us, your telephone number and address and e-mail, a transcript or a copy of a recent report card, and two recommendations from teachers.

E-mail applications are welcome.

Deadline:

Application materials must be received by March 31.
Selections will be announced April 7.

Contact:

Direct questions and applications to: George Liles, WHSA Intern Program, NOAA Fisheries, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543. (george.liles@noaa.gov) (508 495-2378).

